

Appl. No. : 10/729,200
Filed : December 5, 2003

REMARKS

Prior to this amendment, Claims 1 – 39 were pending on this Application. Claims 27 – 29 were previously withdrawn from consideration as drawn to a non-elected species. In this amendment, Claims 1, 2, 19, and 27-39 are canceled, Claims 3-14, 18, and 20-26 are amended, and new Claims 40-53 are added. Accordingly, Claims 3-18, 20-26, and 40-53 remain pending for reconsideration.

Allowable Claims Are In Condition For Allowance

Claims 3, 4, 9, and 22 were objected to in the Office Action but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3, 4, 9, and 22 have been rewritten in this manner and thus are in condition for allowance. Allowance of Claims 3, 4, 9, and 22 is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-8, 10-14, and 18 have been amended to depend from Claim 3 and are therefore in condition for allowance at least for the same reasons that Claim 3 is in condition for allowance. Claims 15-17 depend from Claim 14 and thus also now depend from Claim 3. Accordingly, Claims 5-8, 10-18 are now in condition for allowance at least for the same reasons that Claim 3 is in condition for allowance. Allowance of Claims 5-8 and 10-18 is respectfully requested.

Claims 20-21 and 23-26 have been amended to depend from Claim 22. Accordingly, Claims 20-21 and 23-26 are now in condition for allowance at least for the same reasons that Claim 22 is in condition for allowance. Allowance of Claims 20-21 and 23-26 is respectfully requested.

New Claims Are In Condition For Allowance

New Claims 40-53 depend from Claim 4. As discussed above, Claim 4 has been amended to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, new Claims 40-53 are allowable at least for the same reasons that Claim 4 is allowable. Allowance of Claims 40-53 is respectfully requested.

Applicants do not acquiesce in the rejections nor in the Examiner's statements concerning the scope of the references cited. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims of scope similar to the scope of the claims canceled herein.

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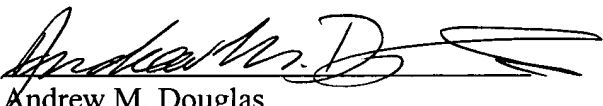
SUMMARY

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and the Applicants respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued at the earliest opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: April 7, 2005

By: 
Andrew M. Douglas
Registration No. 51,212
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(949) 760-0404

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